

Andrew Jackson to Wilson Lumpkin, June 22, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO GOVERNOR WILSON LUMPKIN.¹

1 Copy. Handwriting of A. J. Donelson. Jackson's instructions for writing this letter exist in the Jackson MSS. and, by comparing them with the letter prepared by A. J. Donelson, the reader may see that Jackson was essentially the author of the letter. Probably this was true in the same way of most of his letters actually penned by others. Lumpkin was governor of Georgia. The instructions are as follows:

“Write to Govr. Lumpkins

“your letter was recd. but, as I believed you were well apprised of my personal friendship for you and my confidence in you, as well as my opinions upon the Indian question I did not believe it either necessary or prudent for me to address you officially on that subject. I had spoken freely to Govr. Troup and other members from your state on the policy I thought would be most prudent to pursue with regard to the surveying of and disposition of the land lying within the cherokee boundery—which I knew had been communicated to you. My great desire was that you should do no act that would give to the Federal Court, a legal jurisdiction, over a case that might arise with the C. Indians, and having explained myself fully to your delegation, I was certain they had fully apprised you of my feelings and wishes. Surrounded as I am with business I would not now write you only to assure you of my continued confidence and respect, in which you may always confide until you hear otherwise from my own lips, all rumors and statements to the contrary notwithstanding. With great respect I am in haste yr friend”

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Washington, June 22, 1832.

D'r Sir, Your letter written last winter to me relative to our affairs with the Cherokee Indians was duly recd: but it was not acknowledged in consequence of the great pressure of business at the time, and because I thought an official answer unnecessary to one so much in my confidence and so well acquainted with my views on the Indian question, as you were. I had spoken to Govr. Troup and other members of your state in relation to the course which appeared to me the most proper to be adopted in regard to the survey and disposition of the land lying within the Cherokee boundary. My great desire was that you should do no act which would give the Federal court a legal jurisdiction over a case that might arise with the cherokees; and having explained myself fully to your delegation I did not doubt that you were fully apprised by them of my feelings and wishes.

Surrounded as I now am with business I address you this hasty note only to assure you of my continued confidence and respect; which I trust you will never question on account of the rumours and statements which the malice of our common enemies may circulate for the purpose of seperating us.

With great respect I remain yr. friend